ENGLISH

ARCHOS 404 CAMCORDER

CAMCORDER & CAMERA FUNCTIONS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ARCHOS 404 USER MANUAL

Version 1.1

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to download the latest version for this manual.

This manual contains information about the CamCorder and Camera functions of your ARCHOS 404 CamCorder device. These functions can be used by selecting the CamCorder and Camera icons. You can find instructions on how to use all other functions of this device in the ARCHOS 404 User Manual.

All the information contained in this manual was correct at the time of publication. However, as our engineers are always updating and improving our products, your device's software may have a slightly different appearance or modified functionality than presented in this manual.

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INTRODUCTION

ARCHOS 404 CAMCORDER DESCRIPTION

CAMERA SENSOR

On the Back of the Device:

- **The optical sensor of the device.**
- **Be careful not to leave your fingers in front of it when taking a picture or shooting a video.**
- **Take all appropriate care to avoid scratching the lens: use the included protective pouch to carry the device.**

ARCHOS 404 CAMCORDER INTERFACE DESCRIPTION

Home Screen

- **The Home Screen of the ARCHOS 404 CamCorder has two more icons than that of the ARCHOS 404: CamCorder and Camera.**
- **Select an icon with the navigation pad and press OK to use the particular function.**

1. USING THE CAMCORDER

In the Home Screen, highlight the CamCorder icon and press OK to display the CamCorder pre-recording screen.

All CamCorder recordings made by your ARCHOS device are saved in the "Video/Camcorder" folder. If you wish to keep them in a different location, you can use the Move function of the Archos file browser after recording.

1.1 VIDEO RECORDING PROCEDURE

- **In the pre-recording screen, you can adjust the recording settings if you wish: press MENU, then select *Settings* to enter the CamCorder Settings Screen (see: *CamCorder Settings*).**
- **Before and during recording, you can:**
  - **zoom in and out using ↑/↓.**
    = no zoom / = zoom active.
  - **adjust the recorded sound volume using ←/→.**
  - **lock the exposure via the *Lock exposure* menu item (See *Light/Exposure issues*).**
  - **press to hide or display the on-screen display (menu, status bar, tabs, icons etc.).**

- Press OK to start recording.
- You can pause and restart your recording by pressing OK.
- You can adjust certain settings, such as Exposure and White Balance, during a recording: press MENU and select the *Settings* menu item.
- Press ✖ to stop recording.

When pressing ✖ from the pre-recording screen, you will be taken to the "Video/Camcorder" folder so you can directly view your recordings.

1.2 CAMCORDER SETTINGS

This screen allows you to adjust the CamCorder recording parameters to your personal taste.

You can access the CamCorder Settings screen via the *Settings* menu item in the pre-recording screen.

Use ↑/↓ to highlight a different parameter, then use ←/→ to select a different setting. When you have finished, press ✕ to return to the previous screen: your settings will be saved.

- **Rename**
  - Recorded files are automatically named CAM0000, CAM0001, CAM0002, etc.
  - this option allows you to define a custom filename before the recording begins, using the virtual keyboard. See: *Using the Virtual Keyboard* in the ARCHOS 404 User Manual.

- **Resolution**
  - Options: QVGA (320x240) / VGA (640x480).
  - Use this to set the resolution (fineness) of the recorded image.
  - You can leave this on QVGA if you intend to watch your recorded videos on the built-in screen of your ARCHOS device: the image will be smooth and the file size smaller. However, if you plan to watch your recordings on a TV, you should set this to VGA for a sharper image.

- **Bitrate**
  - Options: Low / Medium (default) / High.
  - Use this to set the level of compression of the recorded video file.
  - A higher bitrate will result in a higher-quality image, but will also take up more space on the hard drive.
  - The default setting (Medium) will be appropriate for most situations.

- **Exposure**
  - Options: Brighter +2/+1,5/+1/+0,5 / Normal / Darker -0,5/-1/-1,5/-2.
  - This parameter allows you to adjust to bright or dark conditions.
  - Darker values will decrease the amount of exposure.
  - Brighter values will increase the exposure.
  - If your subject has a bright background, you may want to overexpose your image a little bit so that the person's face is more visible, thus you would set it to Brighter +1 or +2.
  - If you are recording a video where there is a lot of snow or the sun's reflection on water, you may want to reduce the exposure, thus set it to Darker -1 or -2.

- **White Balance**
  - Options: Auto / Daylight / Cloudy / Fluorescent / Tungsten
  - This parameter lets the camera adjust to the ambient light source in order to best record the natural colors.

- **Sampling**
  - Options: 22 kHz / 32kHz / 44kHz / 48kHz.
  - The sound sampling rate. The higher value gives a higher sound quality but will take up more space on the hard drive.

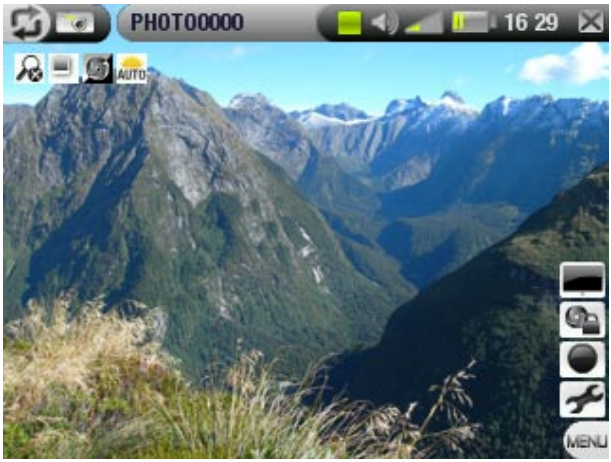
- **Reset**
  - This will reset the values in this screen to the factory default settings.

2. USING THE STILL CAMERA

In the Home Screen, highlight the Camera icon and press OK to enter the still camera mode.

All photographs taken by your ARCHOS device are saved in the "Pictures/Photos" folder. If you wish to keep them in a different location, you can use the Move function of the Archos file browser after taking photos.

2.1 TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS



- **In this viewfinder screen, you can adjust the still camera settings if you wish: press MENU, then select *Settings* to enter the Camera Settings Screen (see: *Camera Settings*).**
- **You can zoom in and out using ↑/↓. = no zoom / = zoom active.**
- **Lock the exposure via the *Lock exposure* menu item (See *Light/Exposure issues*).**
- **Press to hide or display the on-screen display (menu, status bar, tabs, icons etc.).**
- **Press OK to take a picture.**

When pressing ✖ from the viewfinder screen, you will be taken to the “Pictures/Photos” folder so you can directly view your photographs.

2.2 CAMERA SETTINGS

This screen allows you to adjust the Camera parameters to your personal taste.

You can access the Camera Settings screen via the *Settings* menu item in the viewfinder screen.

Use ↑/↓ to highlight a different parameter, then use ←/→ to select a different setting. When you have finished, press ✖ to return to the previous screen: your settings will be saved.

- <u>Rename</u>
  - Photographs taken with your ARCHOS device are automatically named PHOTO0000, PHOTO0001, PHOTO0002, etc.
  - This option allows you to define the filename before taking a picture, using the virtual keyboard. See: *Using the Virtual Keyboard* in the ARCHOS 404 User Manual.

- **Resolution**
  - Options: VGA / 1.2 Megapixels
  - 1.2 Megapixels (1280x960) gives the best image quality but the largest file size.
  - VGA (640x480) will give a smaller file size, but the images will not be as sharp.

- **Image Quality**
  - Options: Basic / Normal / Fine
  - For the best possible image, set this parameter to Fine.

- **Exposure**
  - Options: Brighter +2/+1,5/+1/+0,5 / Normal / Darker -0,5/-1/-1,5/-2.
  - This parameter allows you to adjust to bright or dark conditions.
  - Darker values will decrease the amount of exposure.
  - Brighter values will increase the exposure.
  - If your subject has a bright background, you may want to overexpose your image a little bit so that the person's face is more visible, thus you would set it to Brighter +1 or +2.
  - If you are taking a photo where there is a lot of snow or the sun's reflection on water, you may want to reduce the exposure, thus set it to Darker -1 or -2.

- **White Balance**
  - Options: Auto / Daylight / Cloudy / Fluorescent / Tungsten
  - This parameter lets the camera adjust to the ambient light source in order to best record the natural colors.

- **Timer**
  - **Options: Off / 5 seconds / 10 seconds**
  - **The timer setting allows you to delay the moment at which the photo is taken, for example if you want to include yourself in the picture.**

- **Reset**
  - **This will reset the values in this screen to the factory default settings.**

2.3 TAKING PHOTOS USING THE TIMER

1. **From the Home Screen, select the Camera icon.**
2. **In the viewfinder screen, select the *Settings* menu item.**
3. **In the Camera Settings screen, highlight the Timer parameter and set it to 5 or 10 seconds. Press ✖ to return to the viewfinder screen.**
4. **The timer icon appears on the top of the viewfinder screen (or). Press OK: the ARCHOS device will count down to zero and then take the picture.**

Note that the timer function will stay active for successive pictures you take, unless you return to the Home Screen or set the Timer setting to Off.

3. CONTROLLING THE IMAGE QUALITY

3.1 BLURRED IMAGES

If you notice that some of your videos or photographs are blurred, it could be due to various reasons. As with any other camcorder or still camera, keep in mind the following:

- **If you use the zoom, you must have a very steady hand to hold the ARCHOS 404 CamCorder when filming or taking a picture. Any shakiness is magnified and often renders the image blurry.**
- **Shooting in low light conditions requires more time so that the device's sensor can capture a sufficient amount of light. Thus, any camera movement or fast movement in the camera's sight will be blurred.**
- **Trying to film or take pictures of close objects may also give out-of-focus results.**

3.2 LIGHT/EXPOSURE ISSUES

When taking a photo against a bright light source (for example a window when you are inside, or the sun when you are in an open space), it can happen that the object or person appears too dark in the photo. This is because the bright background makes the camera select an exposure which is not appropriate to capture the person or object in the foreground. There are two ways of correcting this:

- **Use the *Exposure* setting (see: *CamCorder Settings* or *Camera Settings*).**

- **Use the *Lock exposure* menu item:**
  - **Point the ARCHOS 404 CamCorder away from the bright light, towards an area where the light conditions are similar to those around the person or object.**
  - **Select the *Lock exposure* menu item: the exposure settings become fixed and the exposure-locked icon will appear on top of the screen. Now if you take a picture against the bright light source, the exposure will stay fixed at the previous light adjustment. The image of the person or object should no longer appear as dark as before.**
  - **To return to automatic exposure, select the *Auto exposure* menu item.**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

These are specifications for the CamCorder functions only. For general specifications of the ARCHOS 404 series, please see the ARCHOS 404 user manual.

RESOLUTION

- **Digital Still Camera: 1.2 mega pixels.**
- **CamCorder: 640x480 (300.000 pixels).**

SENSOR

- **CCD (Charge Coupled Device).**

CAMCORDER FILE FORMAT

- **MPEG-4 SP (QVGA or VGA resolution).**

FIELD OF VIEW

- **Focale 4.31mm (equivalent to 36mm for a 35mm camera).**

F NUMBER

- **F2.8**

DEPTH FIELD

- **0.50m to infinity.**

WHITE BALANCE

- **5 settings: Auto - Daylight - Cloudy - Fluorescent - Tungsten.**

ZOOM

- **Digital 2x.**

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